JACK QUINN
30TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
RAILROADS

VETERANS' AFFAIRS'

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:

BENEFITS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3230

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

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July 30, 1998

Ms. Lori MacWilliams
55 Brompton Court
Orchard Park, New York 14127

Dear Ms. MacWilliams:

Thank you for contacting me to express you opposition to new tobacco taxes. I always appreciate learning the views of my constituents.

As you know, Congress is currently undertaking efforts to curb teenage smoking. Teenage smoking is fast becoming one of the biggest problems our youth face today. As a former school teacher, I know that underage smoking leads to a series of health and social problems that can hold youngsters back from achieving their full potential. My experience has convinced me that Congress definitely needs to act for the sake of our youth.

It is important to note that it may not be necessary to raise taxes in order to reduce youth smoking. Studies have shown that teenagers are often insensitive to the price of cigarettes. A tax on cigarettes would fall primarily on the backs of adults who legally smoke. Such a tax would constitute a severe cut in the income on thousands of working Americans.

Instead of raising taxes, I propose that the government take direct steps to reduce youth smoking. Efforts to reduce tobacco advertisements and initiate public education campaigns in schools can be an effective way of addressing the problem of youth smoking.

Please be assured that when the House of Representatives addresses this issue, I will keep your views in mind. Once again, thank you for contacting my office. Feel free to call on me if you have any further questions or comments.

Very truly yours,

Jack Quinn
Member of Congress

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